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FARM TELEPHONES

★ JUN 4 - 1959 ★

Farm Telephone Costs Continue Upward

The cost of telephone service to United States farmers continued to advance in 1958, according to the annual survey made by the Crop Reporting Board. The cost has increased each year since the first of these surveys in 1948.

In July 1958, farmers paid an average of \$4.08 for local telephone service compared with \$3.85 in 1957--an increase of 6 percent. This increase reflects in part the improved services provided farm subscribers, primarily through the expansion of dial service.

Increases of 6 to 7 percent over July 1957 were reported for most regions. Exceptions were the West South Central up 4.2 percent, and the Pacific, up 2.9. New England had the largest actual increase--up 32 cents--followed by the Mountain region which was up 29 cents. Areas showing the smallest increases were the Pacific States, up 13 cents and the West South Central region, up 17 cents over the previous year.

Regional differences in costs are, in part, the result of variation in the type and quality of service and the costs of construction.

Average Monthly Local Farm Telephone Bills,
By Regions, July 1953 - 58 1/

Region	1947-49 Average	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
New England	3.17	4.11	4.23	4.35	4.60	4.71	5.03
Middle Atlantic	2.76	3.39	3.39	3.50	3.73	3.97	4.22
E.N.Central	2.22	3.23	3.32	3.41	3.54	3.68	3.91
W.N.Central	1.81	2.71	2.75	2.86	2.99	3.17	3.37
S.Atlantic	2.58	3.61	3.75	3.86	4.07	4.25	4.49
E.S.Central	2.50	3.23	3.42	3.50	3.83	4.24	4.51
W.S.Central	2.02	3.25	3.46	3.64	3.88	4.06	4.23
Mountain	2.65	3.55	3.74	3.91	4.14	4.29	4.58
Pacific	3.08	4.00	3.93	4.15	4.27	4.53	4.66
United States	2.29	3.24	3.33	3.46	3.66	3.85	4.08

1/ The survey made in July and August requested data based on the last bill. This was generally a bill for a period ending in late June, July, or early August.

Expansion of dial service to farm subscribers continued its pace in 1957-58 with 68 percent of the farms with telephones having dial service as of July 1958. This compares with only 61 percent in 1957, an increase of 11 percent. The Mountain Region made the largest increase, percentagewise, up 19 percent.

Regions having the highest percentage dial service were the Pacific, South Atlantic, and New England where more than four out of five subscribers had dial service. On the low side was the West North Central States where only about one-half of the subscribers had dial service.

Type of Telephone Service Supplied Farms
By Regions, July 1958

Region	Type of Service					
	Dial		Battery		Magneto	Crank
	1957	1958	1957	1958	1957	1958
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
N. England	79	84	12	9	9	7
M. Atlantic	67	73	22	18	11	9
E. N. Central	54	63	17	14	29	23
W. N. Central	43	49	12	12	45	39
S. Atlantic	80	85	13	9	7	6
E. S. Central	70	78	20	17	10	5
W. S. Central	61	69	21	15	18	16
Mountain	63	75	29	17	8	8
Pacific	91	94	6	3	3	3
United States	61	68	16	13	23	19

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